



By the King.

A Proclamation against Tenant-rights.



Hereas it hath beene oftentimes, by Decrees and Judgements at Law declared and settled, That Tenant-rights, since the most happy Union of these two renowned Kingdomes of England and Scotland in Our person, are utterly by the ancient and fundamentall rule of Law of this Our Kingdome of England, extinguished and abolished, being but dependances of former separation and hostilitie; And that there is the like settled Rule and constant practise in Scotland since the Union; And yet nevertheless diuers Suits are continually raised and prosecuted in Our Courts of Justice here in England, grounded vpon the said claime of Tenant-right, or Customarie estate of Inheritance, vnder that pretence, Whereby not onely the memory of the said Tenant-right is continued, which ought to be damned to a perpetuall oblivion, but also both parties doe sustaine needlesse charge, and impouerishment, in questioning of that which is beyond all dispute; which may also (in regard of combination of Tenants, and generall Taxes, to pursue their Landlords vpon a common purse) open a way to turbulent and seditious attempts: Wee, out of Our Princely and neuer intermitted care, to auoide these inconueniences aforesaid, haue both recommended the matter to all Our Judges, to suppress and surcease strifes and suits of this nature, And haue also given expresse charge and comendement, to all the principall Officers and Ministers of Our selues and Our dearest Sonne the Prince, That in Our owne Lands, and likewise in those of Our deare Sonne the Prince (neere or bordering vpon Scotland where such Tenant-rights haue beene claimed) they doe let all Estates, whether for Liues or Peeres, be it for Fine or improuement of Rent, by Indenture onely, and not otherwise, To the end to cease and discontinue the said Claime:

And further, to the end the same course may be vniforme and generall amongst Our loving Subjects, wee doe by these Presents wish and expect from all Our loving Subjects in those parts, that they shall follow and conforme themselves to the same example, for Leasing such Lands in manner aforesaid, But herewithall wee doe strictly command, That no Entry in any Court-Roll, hereafter, either of Our owne Honours or Mannours, or of the Princes, or of any of Our Subjects, doe mention any Estate termed of Tenant-right, or Customarie Estate, pretended for Border-seruice; On the other side Our expresse pleasure is, That good and dutifull Tenants, who shall willingly submit themselves to such Estates, be vled with all fauour and moderation, which wee doubt not but the Landlords will doe; Yet if any shall be found to doe the contrary, Our Courts of Equitie shall euer be open and ready to ouer-rule such Landlords, As on the other side, both Our Courts of Law and Equitie, shall be to brydle and elect all such vnrasonable Tenants as shall withstand it.

Given at Our Court at Charlton the eight and twentieth day of Iuly, in the eighteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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